PRICE (In St. Louis, One Cent. Outside St. Louis, Two Cents. On Trains, Three Cents.

ROOT NOT READY TO GIVE DETAILS.

to the Senate's Cape-Nome Inquiry.

One Granted to the Son of a Government Official After a Refusal-Many Applications Filed.

Washington, March 24 - Souretary Property nction on granting permits to individuals and corporations to divide the gold-bear-

ton to much severe criticism. All the facts connected with the matter have not yet come to Huht, and will not until the Secretary has answered the resolution adopted by the Senate vectorday, calling upon him for information. On its face, however, the affair looks but, especially in view of the statement made by Senator Turner in introducing the resolution that the Secretary had granted ex-

It is denied at the War Department that exclusive privileges have been granted. If the records of the department, when sent to the Senate, should substantiate this denial, the criticism would be weakened somewhat, though Secretary Root seems to have been rather doubtful of his authority to grant the permits, when they were first asked for, and at first declined to do so. The first permit was granted to George Max Esterly, the son of the Deputy Auditor of the Treasury for the State I separtment. and it was only issued after the Deputy Auditor had called at the War Depart-

ment and had urged favorable action. Moreover, while this Esterly permit is not exclusive in terms, it is practically so in fact, and the fact that Esterly is closely identified with the administration does not reflect great credit upon the Secretary

How One Permit Was Scenred. Two Reenses have been issued by Secre-tary Root to prospectors to dredge the water front of Cape None. Twenty applications for similar concessions are pending,

cations for similar concessions are pending, all of which will be granted.

The first license was t-sued by Secretary Root on March 1 to George Max Esterly, son of George W. Esterly, Deputy Auditor for the State and other departments. Mr. Esterly is authorized to dredge in an area commencing at low water mark and extending out to sea a distance of 2.00 feet, and for a distance of two miles along the coast. The concession is located at the mouth of the Snake River, a stream upon which especially valuable claims have been which especially valuable claims have been

becretary most apparently carnot recall the name of the personal the name of the person to the second license was granted, and none of the efficials of the department showed any disposition to remember it or to look it up. The department was likewise unwilling to make applie the transfer or the sound and the following to the sound the sound to the sound the sound that the sound the sound the sound that the sound the sound that the sound that

dredging permits, the department answered stating that they could not be granted. Mr. Esterly's application was so treated. Then Mr. Esterly, the Deputy Auditor, appeared on the scene. The Judge Advocate General instructed to prepare a permit; con examining the law, he found that the commendation of the Chief of Engineers as necessary. So the application was ferred to Brigadier General John M. Wil-son. That officer could see no objection, provided pavigation and riparian rights ere respected and the district commander had supervision, but he left it to be undergood that this was a matter entirely disretionary with the Secretary of War, and that that officer alone should determine the repriety of the action taken. Mr. Esterly

then received his permit Since the receipt of additional applications department has referred them to the Chief of Engineers for approval. In Gen-eral Wilson's office the matter has become strictly routine. It was General Wilson's understanding that none of the licenses were to grant exclusive privileges. It is understood that if any further concess of like character are granted a clause will be included specifying that the concession made is "not exclusive," thereby strengthenconcle already existing

Secretary Roof's Explanation. Secretary Root, when asked as to the au-thority for his action, said that it was con-ferred upon him by section 10 of the rive and harbor act of March 3, 1999. This provision expressly states that it shall not be lawful to excavate or fill or in any manner to alter or to modify the course, location condition or capacity of any port, read-stead, haven, barbor, canal, lake, harbor of refuge or inclosure within the limits of any preakwater or of the channel of any navigable water of the United States unle work has been recommended by the Chief gineers and authorized by the Secre tary of War prior, to the beginning of the

The Secretary further said that the cular kind of sand to be dredged did not ber into the consideration of the matter. anybody is privileged to dig for gold in the open sea, and the only question considered by the War Department was whether such peration conducted within the three-mile limit, was an interference with navigation or an infringement of the rights of others. Secretary Root added that Mr. Esterly did not receive an exclusive privilege. Never-theless, he is authorized to "excavate and on" within the area mentioned in his license, and no mention is made of whether such concession is exclusive or not, presupposing, of course, that it is

It is said that the sand which is to be dredged is very valuable, yielding from \$55 to \$250 to the pan.

WANTS MISSOURI COAL.

French Government Making Significant Inquiries.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL Jefferson City, March 22-Missouri's incomparable resources and wenderfully vaproductions are rapidly becoming known to the whole commercial world, and be future possibilities of her greatness Can yet scarcely be imagined. Anent the threatened breach of friendly relations between Great Britain and allied France and Russia and the terrific European war which may result therefrom, a particularly significant announcement was made to-

State Labor Commissioner Rixey is just in receipt of an urgent request from one of the most prominent French Vice Consuls in the United States for definite and the exact information as to Missouri's coal output, its quality, name and location of coal operators, minimum cost, f. o. b., at scaports in 1.500 to 5,000 ton lots, also price at point of production. Missouri's coal may yet furnish steam for the greatest naval contest in the world's history.

PORTUGAL RAISES MONEY IN FRANCE.

Secretary Preparing Life Reply Now Prepared to Pay the Award in the Delagon Pay Arbitration:

TWO DREDGING CONCESSIONS, GREAT BRITAIN FORESTALLED.

Will Have No Pretext for Seizure of Lorenzo Marquez-Boers' Counsel Also Offers to Pay the Claim.

Washington, Murch 22 - Sectedary Hay him wen advised by counsel for the claricant that the umana of the artithis information came from Borne, Switzersitting. It is the belief of the State Iw partment that the arbitrators communicated their purpose to reader the award to might be prepared for their decision

There is no doubt that the award is faverable to the claimints. The only question involved is not to the amount. The Ports Brady of Alaska was his authority for this guese Government believes that the award claimants expect a much larger amount The Portuguese Concrament has borrowed the award as soon as it is rendered. This money was secured in Paris. French cardtalists assisting Portugal in order to prevent

The claimants include several Americans The claimants include several Americans, rotably the widow of Captain M Murole, who constructed the Delagon Ray Rail road, and British stockholders in the company. The Postuguese Government, it will be recalled, granted a centerssion to Captain McMurdo to build a ruitro-of from Legenzo Marquez to the Transvani frontier. The American contrasts that The American contractor died before the railroad was completed, and Portugal selecthe property, knowing the company formed by the American, which agreed to finish the work. The McMurdo claim grew out of this action. The matter was submitted to three Swiss arbitrators, who have been at work

on the case for nearly two years.

The general belief in this country has been that the award would approximate \$5,000.000. A few mouths ago, Portugal would have been unable to meet such a debt, and it has been suggested that the decision of the arbitrators was delayed in order to give the label for the label and it has been suggested that the de-cision of the arbitrators was delayed in order to give the Lisbon Government time in which to negotiate a long, as otherwise it was fest that Great Britian would take possession of Delagon Bay, Recently, a Paris banking-house floated a loan for Por-tugal, and it is espected now that the award, whatever it may be, will be set-ted in cash. tied in cash.

BOERS OFFER TO PAY IT. New York, March 22-George W. Sicklon, the American counsel of the Sout Secretary Root apparently cannot recall African Republics and advocate in America

officials of the department showed any disposition to remember it or to look it up. The department was likewise unwilling to make public the text of the permit given to Mr. Esterly.

According to War Department officials, when applications were first received for Arbitration Tribunal, say, six million dollars, and the many six million dollars. lars (\$6,000,000), fair and satisfactory terms

is regarded as a move on the England may make to Portugal, thus em-barrassing the Lisbon Government thereby, at the same time closing the to the Transvaul and Orange Free

TRANSVAAL THE ACCUSER.

Important Case Set for Trial in Brussels.

SPECIAL BY CABLE

with Selati.

Brussels, Thursday. March 22-10 opy right, 1900, by the New York Herald Com pany)-A criminal case which will attract he greatest interest in England and in all countries where the struggle between Great Britain and the Boers is exciting attention will be heard on June II, before the Brus sels Tribunal Correctionnel It is a trial corruption brought by the British Gov rement against the Boer officials in gen

The parties concerned are snown financiers, the Barons Opponhein and Henry Warnant, Belgian barrister Bracomer, a wealthy Belgian capitalist Liege and another Belgian, M. Terwange, all of whom were associated som-years are as lessees of the Transvant Rail way, which was to connect Komstinger:

They had for this purpose formed a company styled the Compagnie Franco-Reige de Chemin de Ter dd Nord de la Republique Sud Africaine, having its seat at

They are to be tried on the charge brought against them by Doctor Leyds, on behalf of the Transvaal Government of having concected false accounts or

The Transvani Government, when grant ing the concession to the railway, under-took to guarantee the interest on all the shares or debentures issued by the repany, provided the amount did not exceed 19 900 per English mile of railroad. Now the Transvaul Government complains that by producing false accounts the company laimed from them an amount of interelargely in excess of the capital subscribed or required, as the cost of laying the raiiway was much under the limit of 19,600 per

ot 19,600, but allege that they were cor pelled to make the charge higher in order to conceal the bribes which they had to pay President Kruger and his familiars and rand, including some of the Generals now

engaged in the war M. Beernaert, the Belgian erator, who represented Belgium at The Hague peace conference, will conduct the case for prosecution in behalf of Dr. Leyds and the

Transvaal Government. M. Waldeck-Rousseau was retained by the defense, but cannot now serve, because of his position in France. He has handed over the case to M. Ployer of the Paris

RYAN DENIES THE REPORT.

Says the Coal Operators Will Not Close Down.

ESPICALIC SPECIAL, Springfield, Di., March 22.-The report from Virden to the effect that the operators who did not enter the Springfield mining conference have agreed to close their mines is denied by Secretary Ryan of the United Mine Workers of America. He says the nice by Princess Christian and attended Executive Committee of the mine workers by a large suite, visited Herbert Hospital is to meet with these operators within a at Woolwich this afternoon, to see the sick



WEBSTER DAVIS: "MR. PHOTOGRAPHER, I WANT A GOOD PICTURE OF THIS SCENE TO SHOW THE FOLKS AT HOME-FOR THEY DON'T ALWAYS BELIEVE MY SHOOTING STORIES.

SERIOUS SITUATION CONFRONTS OTIS.

FILIPINOS CAPTURE BOOTY.

More Successful in February Than Ever Before-American Casualty Lists Heavier Than Stuce the Outbreak.

San Francisco, Cal. March 21-The teamer Hong-Kong Maru brings from affairs existing in the Philippines. The correspondent of a Hong-Kong paper send

Manila, Feb. 15 - It is a strange state of affairs that exists in the Philippin's to-day. Improvement is in visible in nearly every quarter. Civil governments are rapidly being established in every town of in mocess of extension wherever American hold territory, and yet it is an undentable fact that since January 1 the insurgent forces have captured a number of rifles and quantities of ammunition from the Amercans, almost equaling the sum total.

American captures from the insurgents.

"Besides this, the casualties rate for the ast two weeks will come very close to be ing heavier than at any other period of the arrection, with the exception of the time

These are hard facts to swallow and somewhat alarming into the bargain. The threatened guerrilla warfare that was heard on every side seems to be a reality and parties of fifty or smaller numbers ar ambushed and 'jumped' day after day Supply trains, small escorts and scouting parties are the special objects of attack and the country seems to be full of small. toving bands waiting at every convenient until the prey is caught.

'In one or two instances, heavy patrol or strong scouting parties have quickly avenged these rable by setting out imme-diately and hunting down and killing as many of the maranders as possible. The repetitions of the trouble

The authorities are giving the question neiderable attention and every effort will se made to insure the public safety, for or this depends the future of the country England's policy in India is frequently d'a ussed, and her swift and severe punish ents are looked upon as model peace

The arms were probably captured from Washington, March Z-General Otla's atest casualty list is as follows: Manila, March Z-Killed: Luzon Island,

Third Cavalty, February 22, Atllem, Troop C. Louis B. Palmer, March 2, San Francisco, Troop C. John B. King, Corporal, Samuel Davie: Sixteenth Infantry, March 2, Higan, Company E. Begene S. Anderson, Thir March 9, Badoc, Com-Wounded-Third Cavalry, March 3, San Francisco, Troop C. Heary Myers, scalp slight, Stateenth Infantry, March I, Cala mannigen, Company C. Robert Borchardt.

Sergeant, wounded in chest, serious, William

Ryan, wounded in thigh, serious, March 2 Linam, Company B, Victor W, Lundblum Introval, wounded in head, serious Steward C. Foults, leg. slight; Edward McCully, wounded in thigh, slight; John F. Cannon, leg, severe; Enoch M. Fallis, clavicle, slight, John D. Coates, wounded in thigh serious. Twenty-minth Infantry, February 22. Alliem, Company H. William Kysch, Cor unded in thigh, serious. Thirty bird Infantry, March 5, Cabugao, Compan-1. Paul Rains, wounded in arm, slight March 7, Bangued, Company D, Christopher C. Calloway, Corporal, thorax, severe C. Calloway, Corporal, thorax, severe March 2, Badole, Company L. Eisa J. Junn. Corporal, wounded in knee, slight. Thirty-seventh Infantry, March H. Magdalena, Company A. Eatl E. Roberts, Corporal. ed in arm, slight; Ralph Henry, el

VISITED HERBERT HOSPITAL.

Queen Distributed Flowers From Windsor Garden.

London, March 22-The Queen, accompafew days, and declares that the assumption that action has been taken in advance of this meeting is preposterous. So far as he can learn, he says, no meeting of any kind has been held. day through the arsenal grounds, where

LEADING TOPICS PROMISES MADE TO-DAY'S REPUBLIC.

For Missourt-Fair in northern; showers in southern portion Friday. Saturday fair, probably colder; variable winds.

For Illinois-Fair and colder in northern; rain in southern portion Friday. Saturday Inir: colder in southern portion; fresh south to west

For Arkansas-Rain Friday, Saturday colder, with rain in eastern and fair in western portion; variable

1. Root Not Ready to Give Details. Serious Situation C. ifronts Otta. Plumer's Column Hard Pressed. Promises Made by Secretary Hay.

2. Idaho Investigation, 3. "Sapho" Players Under Indictment.

Situation in Kentucky. t rown Princess Stephanic Married Judges and Clerks for Primaries. Three Archbishops at Kenrick Seminary Negroes Renounce Schweickardt, Stab Wound Saved His Life.

Bartholdt Defends His Course

6 Sporting News. Results at the Bace Tracks. Eastern League Deal Pending Gould Invites St. Louis Polo Players.

7. Favorable Action on Indian Bills beath of Judge E. L. Cooper.

5. Editorial. Hoer Defenses Wers Not Strong Methodist Episcopal Conference Cheral Symphony Concerts.

9 Cockrell Opposes Conference Bitt Republican Muddle in Twelfth District.

I. New Corporations. Real Estate Transfers.

Weather Report. Machinists Walk Out at Chrysland, The Railways. New Interstate Commerce Law.

12. Grain and Produce. Cattle Sales.

Stopped the Street Cars.

12. Firemetal News River Telegrams.

4. Plans Formed for Dewey's Reception Plague Under Control. Grief That Freedom Brought Saloon Men to Be Called to Account.

20,000 employes were drawn up in time and cave her Majesty a magnificent reception. The Queen distributed quantities of Windor flowers in the wards of the hospital.

CANNOT INTERVENE.

The Netherlands, However, Would Support Mediation.

The Hague, March 72-After mature deliberation, the Government has dispatched reply to Presidents Steyn and Kruger regretting that it was unable to comply with their request for intervention in the South African war, after the formal declaration of the British Government that inadded however that the Government of the Netherlands would always be ready to support steps tending to the restoration of

GONE TO STORMBERG.

Sir Alfred Milner Visited Colesberg and Norval's Point.

Cape Town, March 22-Sir Alfred Milner, fter leaving Norval's Pont, arrived at Colesberg at 7 o'clock this morning. An hour ater he left for Stormberg.

COMMISSIONER RIXEY'S PLAN.

Believes Uncle Sam Should Advertise His Missouri Lands.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL Jefferson City, Mo., March 22.-Labor Commissioner Rixey to-day wrote the Missouri Congressmen and Schators, asking them to try to secure an appropriation to aid the Government land Registers in this State to advertise the 400,000 acres of Gov. ernment land in this State for entry or sale. He says they have no fund for that purpose and that a small appropriation can be used to a good advantage for advertis-

BY SECRETARY HAY.

Resolution Asking for Correspondence With the Powers on the "Open Door."

INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE.

Expected to Pass and the Position Taken by the United States Government Probably Will Be Known Soon.

Washington, March 22 - Secretary of St Hay will have an opportunity to transmit to the House of Representatives all the correspondence that has passed between the United States and other Powers relative to

the "open door" in China. Representative Cummings of New York to-day introduced this resolution in the

House of Representatives: "Whereas, the commercial community of the United States is deeply interested in ascertaining the conditions which are to govern trade in such parts of the Chinese Empire as are claimed by various foreign Powers to be within their tarens of inter-

"Whereas, Bills are now pending before both houses of Congress for the dispatch of a commission to China to study its economic condition: therefore

"Resolved That the President of the United States be requested to transmit to the House, if not incompatible with the public service, such correspondence as may have passed between the Department of State and various foreign Governments oncerning the maintenance of the 'openoor' policy in China."

Mr. Cummings said he had introduced the resolution because he believed Congress and the country ought to know just what had been done in this matter. He said he had no doubt the resolution would be faverably reported by the Committee on Foreign Affairs and would pass the House. At the State Department it was said that t has been the intention of Secretary Hay to send all this correspondence to Congress just as soon as possible, and it is probable that if the resolution introduced by Mr Cummings is adopted, it will be complied with at once by the transmission of all the correspondence.

FRANCE'S POSITION.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL. Paris, March 22.-A well-placed French diplomat has declared that no incidents of a senantional nature have occurred in China o justify intervention, and that the affair is simply an English press campaign waged against the Empress.

It is agreed here that France would make ommon cause with America for the main-

tenance of the open door. PUGITIVE REFORMER.

London, March 23. The Singapore corspondent of the Times says: "Kang-Yu-Wel, the Chinese reformer, who was reported a month ago to have sailed for London, returned here secretly in a offorboat and has lived in Singapore ever since. The discovery has greatly excited the local Chinese."

TROUBLE WITH MOROCCO.

French Government Sends Two Warships to the Scene.

Paris, March 22 .- It is said the Governent of Morocco has vigorousy protested against the recent French occupation of the Oasis of Insatah, which, it is claimed on behalf of Morocco, is an encroschment upon the territory of that country.

The two Governments have been nego tiating, and France has decided to send a special plenipotentiary, M. Revoil, to Tangier to arrange the matter. According to the Patrie, the situation has

and the Boer position at Kroonstad be become so grave that the Government Tuesday resolved that M. Revoil should start immediately on board the cruiser Duchavia, of 3.582 tons, which will remain at Tangier to protect Franch citizens. Further serious news, received yesterday decided the French Government to dispatch to Tangiers a second cruiser, the Latouche-Treville, which yesterday was ordered to

PLUMER'S COLUMN IS HARD PRESSED.

Boer Troops From Mafe- GENERAL WAR NEWS. king Attack in Force.

SEVERE FIGHTING.

British Also Find Burghers in Force at Vaal River.

AN ARTILLERY DUEL. :

Pretoria Claims That Stormberg. Gatacre Has Been Captured.

BY MILTON V. SNYDER

SPECIAL BY CABLE. London, Friday, March 21-4Copyright, 900, by the New York Herald Company. 1some curious stories from the Boer camp at Kroonstad and Preteria reached London vesterday. One stated that Commandant Sayman had attacked Colonet Plumer's clumn near Lobatet, had made the British fly pre-initiately and had seized their am-

sturg bas continue This was followed by a story that Gataere and met with serious disaster near Bethube, the British General, ingether with staff, having been out off by Olivier and made

Cape Town, however, and poports vestertay that Olivier, with only a few followers, was doing his best to evade capture by erecping along the border of Basutchand and thus making good his retreat to Kroon-

There is more definite evidence as to the movements of the British troops in the outhern part of the Orange Free State. At the beginning of the week General Gatacre having crossed the Orange River at Bethuie, advanced to Epringfontein. A flying elumn of mounted infanity and artiflery from his command proceeded on Monday or Tuesday castward of Springfontein, to Smithfield. On Wednesday Lord Roberts reported that the town had been occupied and that some Transvanlers with wagens

had been captured. This Boer rumor hears date of Tuesday, and evidently refers to some occurrence of last Sunday or Monday. If any disaster has befatten a British force it must have been known to Lord Roberts before he sent his dispatch yesterday evening, but no

serious or slight. On the contrary, he sends word that Clements is moving from Norval's Pont toward Bloemfontein by way of Philipopolis and Fauresmith, that the Scots Guards are at Edenburg and Reddersburg, not far from Bethanic, and that the burghers are coming in in great numbers and surrendering

their arms. As to the reported victory of Snyman, who is said to have put Plumer's men to flight, an account of the fighting from a British source gives the affair a different emplexion. According to this, Colonel Bodle of Plumer's command made a reconnoissance on Tuesday, March E. from Lo bats), which is about fifty miles north of Mafeking. He found Pitsani and Rothigo occupied by the Boers. On the two following days skirmishes took place, and this advance guard had to fall back on the main body. Some boxes of ammunition are stated to have fallen into the Boers' hands. Commandant Snymen advanced to Plumer's came on Thursday afternoon and a smart engagement followed, apparently with no deristve results.

The importance of these events does not He in the actual fighting, but in the evidence afforded of the position of the Mafeking relief column. It had been supposed that Plumer was at Pitsani and had thrown out his scouts to within fourteen miles of the besieged town. It is now eviden that Plumer is still fifty miles away, and is himself threatened by an advancing Boer

FIGHTING AT WARRENTON.

Kimberley, Thursday, March 29 - There was a smart artillery duct near Warrenton resterday morning. A battery under Major Plewitt, supported by the Kimberley Light Horse, located the Boers, who employed four gurs, two of which used cordite, but ineffectively. The British battery replied with effect and silenced the Boer fire Boots sent two shells near the rallway station, which was not damaged.

A scouting party got too close to the bank of the river and encountered a hot fire. The men were unable to get away and it was impossible to relieve them without loss, the party being obliged to wait for darkness in

order to escape. Blewitt retired with only one wounded. This morning brisk firing was resumed a Warrenton about half past 6, but it has now

slacked up. A detachment of Fugiliers has arrived. Two Vryberg inhabitants, who had been imprisoned by the Boers, were sent leto Warrenton under a white flag, after being taken from laager to laager around the district. They say that the big gun from Kimberley had been taken through Christiana to

Trains now run within eight miles of War

RUSSIAN ATTACHE'S VIEW. Pretoria, Tuesday, via Lorenzo Marquez, Thursday, March 22-Captain Makinoff, the Russian military attache with the Boer forecs, has just returned from a trip to the front in Natal and at Kroonstaad. He reports that he is amazed at the reorganization of the Federal forces and the splendid fighting spirits of the burghers. He considers the Biggatsberg line impregnable,

thinks equal to that at Magersfontein, Captain Makinoff says the quick occupation of Bloemfontein by the British was a good strategic move, but he declares that is will take many months to turn the floer ommandees out of their present positions. BOERS HOLD STRONG LAAGERS.

SPECIAL BY CABLE. Warrenton, Cape Colony, March 21 .-(Copyright, 1900, by the New York Herald

· Hard fighting has been in progress · · north of Mafeking, the Boers being ·

 Commandant Snyman with a force ◆ · from Mafeking attacked Colonel · Flumer's troops and checked them in . the vicinity of Lebatsi. Instead of ◆ relieving Easten-Powell, this column ◆

may have to retrace its steps. The expedition sent out from Kim- berley toward Mafeking has found
 the Beers to be strongly intrenched · at the Vani River, which is only fifty · miles north of Kimberley.

 The Beers in Natal are displaying
 renewed activity. They have sacked ◆ Pomeroy, thirty miles east of Lady- ◆ · rmith, and, when pressed by the · · British, took up a strong position, · · which apparently the latter did not ·

A report from Preteria says that • Olivier's troops. This dispatch is not .

Commissioner Milner has gone to

Company.)-An artiflery duel took place this morning north of the Vaal River, The Twentieth Battery of Artiflety, under Ma-

tor Elewitt, misnored the Boor guns Artillery, supported by the Kimberly Light Horse, have made a reconnoissance, which showed that the Boers hold several

strong laagers. BOER DISSESSIONS. London, March 23.-A dispatch to the

Merning Post from Bloomfontein, dated Wednesday, says: "A deserter reports that the enemy, after repeated dissensions, has withirawn from Brandfort northward. He thinks it unlikely that the Boers will make a stand anywhere south of the Vast. I cannot per-

sonally share such optimism Spenser Wilkinson, reviewing the general held operations in the Morning Post, says; "The rumors of Boer victories are not worth much, but they may serve to remind us that for a day or two there has been no specific account of General Gataere's movenents. It is probable that his force is moving northward on the cast side of the rail-

"Interest in Mafeking increases in acute-Commandant Styman evidently

writes highly colored dispatches, which scems a pity, for his tactice are sound. "Lord Roberts is not likely to let the Boer rmy escape him, and he is pausing so as o insure, when he pext moves, the mobility mi handiness of all his columns. By this time he has taken the measure of all his-Generals and troops and there is not likely to be any such failure of execution as ocarred during the march on Bloemfentein. He will be direting the movements of two,

f not three, armies, and the result probably will greatly astonish the Boers. FREE STATERS SUBMITTING.

London, March 22.-Lord Roberts telegraphs from Electrofontein, under date of March II, as follows: "So many burghers have expressed a demention whatever is made of any reverse, to surrender under the terms of the last proclamation that I sent small col-

umns in various directions to register their names and take over their arms. "A cavalry brigade has gone to the castward to Thubancho, and a detachment from Springfontein has occupied Smithfield, where some Transvasiers and a wagon with arms and ammunition were captured. The Scots Guards are at Edenburg and Redders-

"General Clements's brigade is marching hither by way of Philipopolis and Fauresmith.

burg.

BOERS REPORT A VICTORY. Kroonstadt, Orange Free State, Tuesday. March 20, via Pretoria, March 22.-The Boers ommanded by General Olivier have engaged

the British troops under General Gatacre in the vicinity of Bethulie, repulsing the Britsh with heavy less and capturing many of Burghers are arriving here in great num-

ers. General De Wet arrived to-day. Desultory fighting with Colonel Plumer's column has occurred near Gaberone

Aliwal North, Cape Colony, March 22 ommandant Officer left Smithfield two tours before the British scouts arrived. He only succeeded in inducing about 150 men to accompany him, mostly insurgent colonists. The Free Staters refused to go with him

PRESSING PLUMER'S COLUMN. Lebatsi, Friday, March 16.-The Boers, inder Commandant Snyman, are advancing force from Mafeking toward Lobatst 'elonel Bedle made a reconnoissance en March 13 and found Pitsani and Pothlugo

occupied by the Boers. He returned to

Goode Siding and made a demonstration on

March H. He found the Boers in strength at a sharp curve on the rallroad. They had mounted a gun on the line and were lying m wait for the construction train. Brisk firing occurred a few miles south of Lobatsi on the morning of the 15th. The Boers' Maxim was freely used. Colonel Boile came in touch with the Boers just in time to prevent the camp being surprised. The Boers attacked the advance party and aptured a few boxes of ammunition and nearly secured a Maxim. Lieutenant Tyler

was killed and Licutenant Chapman capured. Colonel Bodle, coming up, put the Boers to flight with heavy less. The Boers yesterday were within a few tiles of Lobatsi. Yesterday afternoon the Beers pressed closely on Colonel Plumer's male camp and kept up a hot fire with a Maxim, killing one white man and one native. They placed the Maxim and a twelve-and-a-half-pounder on a hill on the

cast side of the line, 4,000 yards from the camp. The British right is protected by Chief Batheon, who has warned the Boers not to

enter his territory. Colonel Plume,'s present endeavor is to nsure the safety of the railway north of Lobatsi and to watch well the left flank. It is probable that before the Boers retire toward Pretoria they will tackle the Rhode.

sians in force. It is reported that the burghers are abanoning the environs of Mafeking, leaving only sufficient number of artillerists to man the big guns. There are none at Ramathlasama, where they were supposed to have their base. Colonel Plummer's scouts were at Ramathlabama yesterday. The usual Mafeking dispatches are overdue, but no

Dynamite explosions, wrecking the railway, are proceeding south of Lobatsi. BOERS ACTIVE IN NATAL. London, March 22.-While the Boers and British in the Orange Free State are taking

anxiety is felt on that score.

dvantage of the period of inactivity to en-Continued on Page Twee